

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK FEBRUARY, 2019 BIRD COUNTS

Another month at least it is getting a bit warmer so to the statistics. I carried out 28 surveys over 121 hours and saw 94 species. This is the best February I saw 91 species in 2017. For the year I have seen 106 species with 253 as the grand total. There were 14,227 birds on the 4th and 56 species on the 17th.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 17th with two on the 25th, then one seen on the 27th. There were five Common Loons on the 18th the best count for the month. There were three American White Pelicans on the 12th with four on the 20th. A second-winter Great Cormorant flew to the north on the 10th. Also flying to the north were 30 Great Egrets on the 15th. There was a Green Heron on the 19th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on five dates with three on the 16th. There were more Wood Storks than normal with 46 on the 5th and 76 on the 7th; a new high count.

Unexpectedly there were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 13th with another on the 28th. Lesser Scaup peaked at 1,800 on the 10th. There was a Surf Scoter on the 3rd with three on the 9th and 10th, then one seen on the 18th. There were single White-winged Scoters on the 4th and 10th. Black Scoters moved to the north all month a total of 3,458 in all the best day was the 10th when 1,370 seen. There was a Northern Harrier on the 20th with a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 14th and 16th. Perhaps early there was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 24th. The Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 5th and 10th.

Red Knots peaked at 140 on the 3rd. Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen on the 2nd, 13th and 21st. There were 19 Parasitic Jaegers for the month with three on the 18th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 3rd and 9th with two on the 18th. There was a white immature Iceland Gull on the 20th it flew to the north. Royal Terns peaked at 684 (they flew to the north) on the 9th and an adult Common Tern flew to the north on the 10th. Forsters Terns peaked at 460 on the 2nd they also flew to the north. During the month Black Skimmers only flew to the month in all 377 seen with 46 on the 2nd. Finally for this group a Razorbill flew to the north on the 1st. The only species that flew to the south were the Lesser Scaup.

White-winged Doves were seen on eight days with three on the 7th. There were single Common Ground-Doves on the 4th, 8th and 15th. There was a Pileated Woodpecker on the 14th always a surprise seeing as there is no woodland. There was an Eastern Phoebe all month with two on the 14th. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on the 12th and 26th. There were three American Crows on the 4th with one on the 6th. Fish Crows have started to move north there were 191 on the 14th. Single Purple Martins were seen on the 17th, 22nd and 27th. There was a huge invasion of

American Robins with higher counts of 2,180 on the 2nd, 4,120 on the 5th, 9,130 on the 12th and 13,360 on the 4th. There was a Brown Thrasher on the 20th. For only the second time there were three American Pipits on the 16th. Cedar Waxwings arrived on the 20th with 72 on the 22nd and 80 on the 26th.

Yellow rumped Warblers had two very high counts with 372 on the 7th and 259 on the 12th. So after all that there was a new species for the park one I never expected to see. On the 13th in a warm front with light rain a Song Sparrow turned up - it did not stay. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 125 on the 16th and 130 on the 27th. House Finches were seen through the month with eight on the 14th. Finally for the American Goldfinch there were 12 on the 14th with 80 on the 24th, then 12 seen on the 25th.

The real spring passage is awaited!

Harry Robinson